

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus ~~having a structure in which comprising:~~

a conveying rotary member;

~~a sheet having an image formed thereon is nipped with a conveying rotary member and biasing rotary members;~~

~~[[the]] a biasing rotary member, [[s] [[being]] which is in contact with [[the]] said conveying rotary member, [[and]] nips a sheet on which an image is formed, together with said conveying rotary member, and conveys the sheet along said conveying rotary member;~~

~~the sheet is conveyed along the conveying rotary member to an image reading position opposes to a lowermost point of the conveying rotary member so that the image is read with an image reading means;~~

~~said image reading apparatus comprising pressing means which are arranged in an axial direction of the conveying rotary member for pressing the sheet against the image reading position;~~

an image sensor which reads the image on the sheet conveyed to an image reading position opposed to a lowermost point of said conveying rotary member; and

a pair of pressing plates which are arranged on both sides in an axial direction of said conveying rotary member and presses the sheet against the image reading position

~~wherein a tread of the conveying rotary member and surfaces of said pressing means opposed to the reading means are colored white.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein each of said pressing [[means]] plates each have has a guide surface which guides the sheet.

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein each of said pressing [[means]] plates [[are]] is pressed against the image reading position by biasing means a spring.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said pressing [[means]] plates are formed of an elastic member.

6. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to
claim 1,

wherein [[the]] said biasing rotary member[[s]] [[are]] is disposed on each
of an upstream side and a downstream side of the image reading position, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to
claim 6,

wherein [[the]] said biasing rotary member on the upstream side of the
image reading position has a diameter smaller than a diameter of [[the]] said biasing rotary
member on the downstream side of the image reading position.

8. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:

a sheet-like original reading mechanism which [[has the]] includes
conveying rotary member, the biasing rotary members, the pressing means, the reading
means, a sheet glass which is disposed in the image reading position and an upper surface
of which the sheet passes, and a discharge [[means]] roller which discharges the sheet
conveyed by [[the]] said conveying rotary member and [[the]] said biasing rotary member;
[[and]]

a book-like original reading mechanism which has a platen glass[,,] on
which a book-like original is mounted, and a platen bringing the book-like original into

close contact with the platen glass, and [[is]] being capable of reading the book-like original as the ~~reading means~~ image sensor moves under the platen glass.

9. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the platen has a discharged sheet stacking ~~section~~ portion, on which a sheet discharged by the discharge [[means]] roller is stacked, on an upper surface thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~sheet stacking means on which a sheet having an image thereon is stacked;~~
~~sheet conveying means which conveys sheets on said sheet stacking means;~~
and

an original mounting stand on which a sheet having an image formed

thereon is stacked;

a pickup roller which feeds the sheet on the original mounting stand; and
separation means which separates the sheets conveyed by said sheet
conveying means the pickup roller one by one.

11. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said separation means comprises a separation roller and a friction member which nip to separate the sheets one by one.

12. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image reading apparatus which reads an image formed on a sheet; and
an image forming [[means]] portion which forms the image read by said
image reading apparatus on a sheet,
wherein said image reading apparatus is the image reading apparatus
according to any one of claims 1 [[to]] and 3-11.